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EXAMINER

HO, BINH VAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2821

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Drawing is objected because it fails to show a capacitor is connected in series with a switch.

Claim Objection

2. Claim 1 is objected "can be" should be changed to -- is --.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 1, line 10, "a capacitor is connected in series with a switch" is not disclosed because the specification and drawing fail to show the series connection, such as one single path flows to the switch and the capacitor.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, lines 7-8, "between a connecting point between" needs to be rephrased that remove on "between" in a sentence.

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Claim 1, line 9, "on the one hand" means another point of view, which is contrastive to prior condition, however the claim does not show any contrastive limitation.

Claim 1, line 10, "on the other hand" means another point of view, which is contrastive to prior condition, however the claim does not show any contrastive condition.

Claim 1, line 11, "the capacitor" is vague because it is not clear whether it is refer to the capacitor show in line 5 or in line 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1 - 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Waki (5,233,273)

(Claim 1)

Waki discloses a ballast device for a discharge lamp (15), having a DC voltage supply stage (11), semiconductor 5 switches (30,31) which are switched a radiofrequency clock frequency for the purpose of changing the current direction through the discharge lamp (15), a starting transformer (22), to which the DC voltage of the DC voltage supply stage (11) can be supplied via a series capacitor (12), and a ballast inductance (14) which is connected to an electrode, not connected the starting

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transformer (22), of the discharge lamp (15), characterized in that, between a connecting point between the series capacitor (12) and the starting transformer (22), on the one hand, and a connecting point between the discharge lamp (15) and the ballast inductance (14), on the other hand, a capacitor (25) is connected in series with a switch (24), and in that the capacitor (25) forms, with the ballast inductance (14), a series resonant circuit which is tuned to a higher harmonic of the clock frequency.

(Claim 2)

Waki discloses characterized in that the series resonant circuit is tuned to the third to sixth harmonic of the clock frequency (col. 17, lines 62 +).

(Claim 3)

Waki discloses characterized in that a resistor (Figure 13) is connected in parallel with the capacitor (25)

Inquiry

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh V. Ho whose telephone number is 571 272 8583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00AM - 4:30PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don K. Wong can be reached on 571 272 1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Binh V Ho
Examiner
Art Unit 2821

Binh Van Ho
08/04/2005


WILSON LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER